Volume 129, Number 13

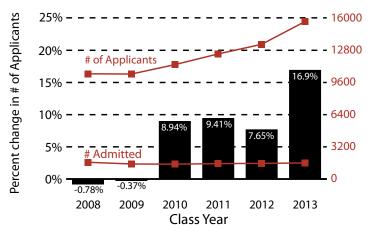
The Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, 45°F (7°C) Tonight: Mostly clear, 34°F (1°C) Tomorrow: Partly sunny, 56°F (13°C)

Details, Page 2

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Rate Is Record 10.2%



Admissions Statistics by Year

The top line (maroon) shows the number of applicants per year, while the bottom line (maroon) shows the number admitted. The bar graph (black) shows the percentage change in applicants from year to year.

By Arkajit Dey

NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

The number of students applying to MIT increased by the largest margin in recent memory, thanks in part to a new partnership with a non-profit admissions organization and deteriorating economic conditions. As a result, the acceptance rate plummeted to a record-low 10.2 percent, a substantial decrease from the Class of 2012's 11.6 percent acceptance rate. Waitlist spots were offered to 454 applicants.

MIT received 15,661 applications for the Class of 2013, an increase of 2,265 applications and a 17 percent increase over the previous year. In recent years the number of applications has increased at a rate of 7 to 9 percent.

"The biggest single factor" in the applications increase, the Quest-Bridge partnership, netted MIT over 800 additional applicants, said Dean of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86. The Questbridge applicants represent more than five percent of the applicant pool.

These applicants accounted for a third of the increase in applications, said Schmill. Even before including the additional 800 Questbridge applications, there was an 11 percent increase in the number of applications over last year, representing a larger-than-normal increase.

Due to the worsening economy, students are applying to more schools in order to "compare costs," said

Admissions, Page 12

Number of Applicants | Campus Police Officer Arrested, Increases; Acceptance | Charged with Drug Trafficking

By Robert McQueen

Officer Joseph D'Amelio of the MIT Police was arrested in uniform in East Boston on Saturday night for trafficking in prescription painkillers. D'Amelio, of East Boston, and his cousin Anthony Cristallo, of Derry, NH, were caught trafficking 340 OxyContin pills and 500 Roxicodone tablets at an auto shop near Logan International Airport, the Boston Herald reported.

D'Amelio was arraigned and bail was set at \$500,000 cash in the East Boston District Court yesterday. Both D'Amelio and Cristallo pleaded not guilty. If convicted of trafficking over 28 grams of oxycodone, D'Amelio and Cristallo face at least 7 years in prison, according to Massachusetts sentencing guidelines.

Cristallo, a convicted killer, spent 15 years in New Hampshire state prison for a murder he committed in 1986 at age 16, the Suffolk County assistant district attorney told WMUR-TV Channel 9 New Hampshire.

Federal Express opened a package in their custody containing the



MIT Campus Police officer Joseph D'Amelio was arrested Saturday on drug trafficking charges after receiving a package containing hundreds of prescription painkiller tablets at an auto shop in East Boston.

drugs and notified narcotics officers. D'Amelio, in uniform, drove his MIT Police cruiser to Advanced Automotive in East Boston, where he picked

up the drugs from a trooper posing as a FedEx employee, the Boston Her-

D'Amelio, Page 10

Grad Student Stipends Increase 3.4%

GSC Report Says Cost of Living for Grad Students Increased 4.9% Last Year

By Zeina Siam

MIT announced last Friday that graduate student stipends will increase by 3.4 percent next year. The decision followed a meeting in Feb. among the Graduate Student Council (GSC), the provost, and the deans of the schools.

Based on their recent annual

survey, the GSC estimates the cost of living for a graduate student has gone up by 4.9 percent for the coming academic year. The GSC said that housing and agricultural prices are increasing continually, affecting graduate students' budgets and putting pressure on the council to request increases in stipends.

"We get information about the students' consumption baskets and the percentage that each surveyed student allocates to each consumption good type," said Alex H. Chan G, co-chair of the GSC's Housing and Community Affairs subcommit-

The annual survey characterizes the consumption behavior and cost of living of the MIT graduate student body. The survey polled 2200 graduate students, or 36 percent of MIT's graduate population, a sample size Chan described as "huge."

These percentages are then indexed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' September-to-September inflation numbers for each of several consumption good categories. These categories, such as "Food and Beverages" and "Transportation," are used to represent a graduate student's to-

Grad Stipends, Page 10



Atheist philosopher Peter Singer (professor of bioethics at Princeton University, left) addresses questions about morality and ethics last Saturday as Christian philosopher John Hare (professor of philosophical theology at Yale, right) looks on. Eric Gregory (assistant professor of religion at Princeton, center) moderated the discussion, which was part of MIT's Veritas Forum. The event, organized by campus Christian organizations with help from Veritas Forum staff, invited prominent speakers to discuss ethics, beauty, and the relationship between science and faith.



Wenjia Zhu '11 and Bo Han '10 use the Lindgren Library lobby for a quick phone conference on March 16. Because of budgetary constraints, Lindgren Library (Building 54) and the Aeronautics and Astronautics Library (Building 33) will likely close in the near future, as reported in last week's Tech.



Comics

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MIT Symphony Orchestra performs a "miracle." (It was a concert.) Page 9

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prospective students....... 13

World & Nation 2 Opinion..... 4 Page 2 THE TECH March 17, 2009

World & Nation

California Officials Seek to Regain Control of Prison Health Care

By Bob Egelko

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

SAN FRANCISC

The state of California made its case Monday to regain control of health care in its prisons, telling a federal judge that "dramatic improvements" have occurred since the judge blamed the health system for killing one inmate per week and assigned an overseer to make changes.

California prison officials "can take back the reins, and they should take back the reins," Paul Mello, a lawyer for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said at a hearing in San Francisco.

He acknowledged that the improvements followed U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson's appointment of a receiver in 2006 to manage the prison health system. Henderson had ruled that the state was violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment and had shown itself incapable of fixing the problems on its own

But Mello argued that the appointment, and receiver Clark Kelso's \$8 billion plan to build and refurbish prison health centers, were unnecessary and illegal.

California is "putting its money where its mouth is," Mello said, spending \$14,000 per inmate on health care each year — more than any other state — and more than \$2 billion overall. He also said a 1996 federal law, chiefly intended to limit inmates' lawsuits, prohibited judges from taking control of state prison systems or ordering prison construction.

Kelso's lawyer, James Brosnahan, countered that the 1996 law did not even mention receivers or the power that federal judges hold to appoint temporary managers when government programs violate constitutional standards.

High Court's Second-Amendment Ruling Has Had Little Impact

By Adam Liptak

THE NEW YORK TIME

VASHINGTON

About nine months ago, the Supreme Court breathed new life into the Second Amendment, ruling for the first time that it protects an individual right to own guns. Since then, lower federal courts have decided more than 80 cases interpreting the decision, District of Columbia v. Heller, and it is now possible to make a preliminary assessment of its impact.

So far, Heller is firing blanks.

The courts have upheld federal laws banning gun ownership by people convicted of felonies and some misdemeanors, by illegal immigrants and by drug addicts. They have upheld laws banning machine guns and banning sawed-off shotguns. They have also upheld laws making it illegal to carry guns near schools or in post offices. And they have upheld laws concerning concealed and unregistered weapons.

"The Heller case is a landmark decision that has not changed very much at all," said Adam Winkler, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "To date, the federal courts have not invalidated a single gun control law on the basis of the Second Amendment since Heller."

Heller itself struck down parts of the District of Columbia's gun control law, the strictest in America. The case was brought by law-abiding people who wanted to keep guns in their homes for self-defense. The cases that have followed it tend to concern more focused laws and less attractive gun owners.

Harvey C. Jackson IV, for instance, argued that he had a constitutional right to carry a gun while selling drugs in a dangerous neighborhood in East St. Louis, Ill. The federal appeals court in Chicago was unimpressed.

Winkler summarized the impact of Heller in an article to be published in *The UCLA Law Review* in June.

Obama Moves to Quell Fury Over AIG Bonuses

By Edmund L. Andrews and Jackie Calmes

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama and his top economic advisers scrambled to calm a nationwide furor on Monday over bonuses paid at American International Group, even as administration officials acknowledged they had known about the issue for months.

One day after the economic advisers insisted that their hands had been tied by contracts requiring the payments, Obama ordered the Treasury department to "pursue every single legal avenue to block these bonuses" and make the American taxpayers whole.

"In the last six months, AIG has received substantial sums of from the U.S. Treasury," Obama said. "How do they justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat?"

But as anger from lawmakers increased and criticism of the retention bonuses overshadowed other news for a second consecutive day, White House and Treasury officials offered only a general sense of how they would carry out Obama's order and

few explanations for why they had not acted earlier.

White House officials said the Treasury would recapture the bonus money by writing new requirements into a \$30 billion installment of government aid scheduled to go soon to the ailing insurance conglomerate. The government has already provided \$170 billion in taxpayer assistance to keep AIG from failing and now owns nearly 80 percent of the company.

But administration officials conceded that almost all of the most recent round of bonuses, totaling \$165 million, had been paid last Friday, one day before the Treasury publicly acknowledged that it had reluctantly approved the payouts. The officials said that people who received the bonuses would probably be able to keep them.

By seeking to link repayment of the bonus money to the coming \$30 billion in assistance, the administration seemed to leave open the possibility that the company would effectively be repaying taxpayers with taxpayer money. A Treasury official disputed that taxpayers would be repaying themselves, but could not specify how else the company would give back the money.

Increasing the pressure on the company, Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York attorney general, said he would subpoena AIG for the names, job descriptions and performance evaluations of the employees receiving the bonuses.

"You could argue that if taxpayers hadn't bailed out AIG, the contracts wouldn't be worth the paper they were signed on," Cuomo said.

For all the furor since details of the bonuses became public over the last several days, the issue of retention payments to AIG employees globally has been percolating publicly since AIG was bailed out in mid-September. About \$1 billion in retention payments for 2008 and 2009 are in question, but the controversy involves about half of that, about \$450 million over two years, that was intended for employees of AIG's financial products unit. That unit was the source of the financial derivatives blamed for the near-meltdown at the heart of the economy's downturn.

Treasury and Federal Reserve officials said they had known about the program as far back as last fall.

Stimulus Puts 'Clean' Coal Projects on Faster Track

By Matthew L. Wald

THE NEW YORK TIMES

EDWARDSPORT, IND.

Near the middle of a dusty construction site here stands a patch of land, about the size of two football fields, notable because it is empty.

Duke Energy has high hopes for this two-acre plot: If all goes right, and there is a happy convergence of technology, money and federal energy policy, the construction project could become the first environmentfriendly coal-fired power plant in the nation.

The company is studying a method for capturing the carbon dioxide produced by using coal and storing the gas underground, preventing it from entering the atmosphere. Machines to separate carbon dioxide from other elements in the coal may someday stand on the empty land.

For years, scientists have been

experimenting with ways to "clean" coal, a carbon-heavy fuel that countries around the world increasingly rely on. But the technology for carbon capture and storage has been tried only on a small scale. Governments have not required companies to do what Duke is proposing here, in part because costs were so uncertain.

The allocation of \$3.4 billion in the federal stimulus bill for carbon capture and sequestration, as carbon storage is often called, however, has allowed Duke Energy and other companies to consider mounting full-scale projects.

The federal money is the latest sign of a growing interest worldwide in clean coal technologies, which backers believe could prove one of the most significant ways to tackle global warming. The projects are being watched closely by environ-

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, March 17, 2009

mentalists, engineers and energy officials.

The Duke effort, said John Thompson, a coal expert at an environmental group, the Clean Air Task Force, "may be the first commercial carbon sequestration site in the United States."

If Duke is successful, the plant could be capturing about 18 percent of its carbon dioxide emissions within four or five years, and an additional 40 percent a few years after that. Carbon dioxide is the main heat-trapping gas linked to global warming.

The new plant will differ from conventional coal plants in significant ways, cooking the coal into a fuel gas rather than burning it as a powder, and then thoroughly cleaning the gas and burning it in a jet engine, similar to that used to burn natural gas.

WEATHER

A Sunny St. Patrick's Day

By John Agard

Today is St. Patrick's Day, and, perhaps as the luck of the Irish would have it, the weather will remain calm and mostly sunny. Temperatures here will reach around 45°F (7°C), making for a relatively fine day by New England standards. In fact, today's weather in the Boston area will be somewhat similar to today's weather in Dublin, Ireland, where temperatures will reach the low 50s°F (11°C) under partly sunny skies. While today's weather won't quite reach the spring-like conditions we experienced over the weekend, today's warming will carry over into tomorrow, and spring's arrival isn't far away.

High pressure will remain over New England through the middle part of this week, creating warm, sunny conditions through Wednesday, when highs will climb to around 56°F (13°C). This warming trend will be fleeting, however, as a cold front will pass through the area on Thursday, bringing with it a few rain showers and temperatures falling back into the 40s°F (7°C) by Friday. However, 7:44 a.m. on Friday will mark the vernal equinox, and the official beginning of spring.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny; high 45°F (7°C) **Tonight**: Mostly clear; low 34°F (1°C) **Tomorrow**: Partly sunny; high 56°F (13°C)

Thursday: A chance of rain showers; highs in the low 50s°F (11°C)

Friday: Mostly sunny; highs in the mid 40s°F (7°C)

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recipitation Symbols

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Other Symbols

Fog

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Compiled by MIT

An Autism Surge Alarms Minneapolis Somalis

By Donald G. Mcneil Jr.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MINNEAPOLIS

Ayub Abdi is a cute 5-year-old with a smile that might be called shy if not for the empty look in his eyes. He does not speak. When he was 2, he could say "Dad," "Mom," "give me" and "need water," but he has lost all that.

He does scream and spit, and he moans a loud "Unnnnh! Unnnnh!" when he is unhappy. At night he pounds the walls for hours, which led to his family's eviction from their last apartment.

As he is strapped into his seat in the bus that takes him to special education class, it is hard not to notice that there is only one other child inside, and he too is a son of Somali immigrants.

"I know 10 guys whose kids have autism," said Ayub's father, Abdirisak Jama, a 39-year-old security guard. "They are all looking for help."

Autism is terrifying the community of Somali immigrants in Minneapolis, and some pediatricians and educators have joined parents in raising the alarm. But public health experts say it is hard to tell whether the apparent surge of cases is an actual outbreak, with a cause that can be addressed, or just a statistical fluke.

In an effort to find out, the Minnesota Department of Health is conducting an epidemiological survey in consultation with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This kind of conundrum, experts say, arises whenever there is a cluster of noncontagious illnesses.

While there is little research on autism clusters, reports of cancer clusters are so common that health agencies across the country respond to more than 1,000 inquiries about suspected ones each year. A vast majority prove unfounded, and even when one is confirmed, the cause is seldom ascertained, as it was for Kaposi's sarcoma among gay men and mesothelioma among asbestos workers.

It is "extraordinarily difficult" to separate chance clusters from those in which everyone was exposed to the same carcinogen, said Dr. Michael J. Thun, the American Cancer Society's vice president for epidemiology. Since the cause of autism is unknown, the authorities in Minnesota say it is hard to know even what to investigate. A small recent study of refugees in schools in Stockholm found that Somalis were in classes for autistic children at three times the normal rate.

Calls to representatives of Somali groups in Seattle and San Diego found that they were aware of the fear in Minneapolis but unsure about their own rates. Doctors familiar with the Somali communities in Boston and Lewiston, Maine, had heard of no surges there.

"It's a concern here, but we haven't done anything to look specifically," said Ahmed Salim of Somali Family Services in San Diego.

Shamso Yusuf of the Refugee Women's Alliance in Seattle said tearfully that her own daughter had been given a diagnosis of autism, "and I see a lot of parents who have 5-year-olds who cannot speak." But no Seattle study has been done, she said

Somalis began arriving in Minneapolis in 1993, driven out by civil

China's Stimulus Spending Sows A Surge in Growth

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GUANGZHOU, CHINA

The global economic downturn, and efforts to reverse it, will probably make China an even stronger economic competitor than it was before the crisis.

China, the world's third-largest economy behind the United States and Japan, had already become more assertive. Now it is exploiting its unusual position as a country with piles of cash and a strong banking system, at a time when many countries have neither, to acquire natural resources and make new friends.

Last week, China's prime minister, Wen Jiabao, even reminded Washington that as one of the United States' biggest creditors, China expects Washington to safeguard its investment.

China's leaders are turning economic crisis to competitive advantage, said economic analysts.

The country is using its nearly \$600 billion economic stimulus package to make its companies better able to compete in markets at home and abroad, to retrain migrant

workers on an immense scale and to rapidly expand subsidies for research and development. Construction has already begun on new highways and rail lines that are likely to permanently reduce transportation costs.

And while American leaders struggle to revive lending — in the latest effort with a \$15 billion program to help small businesses — Chinese banks lent more in the last three months than in the preceding 12 months.

"The recent tweaks to the stimulus package indicate a sharper focus on the long-term competitiveness of Chinese industry," said Eswar S. Prasad, a former China division chief at the International Monetary Fund. "Higher expenditures on education and research and development, along with amounts already committed to infrastructure investment, will boost the economy's productivity."

The international economic slow-down is also doing some things that Chinese authorities had tried and failed to do for four years: slow inflation, reverse what had been an ever-growing dependence on exports and pop a real estate bubble before it

could grow even bigger.

The recession in most of the large economies in the world is inflicting real pain here — causing a record plunge in Chinese exports, putting 20 million migrant workers from within China out of their jobs and raising the potential for increased and sustained social unrest. But as President Hu Jintao told the National People's Congress last week, "Challenge and opportunity always come together — under certain conditions, one could be transformed into the other."

To that end, Chinese companies are shopping for foreign businesses to acquire. The commerce ministry is leading a delegation of corporate executives to Europe for the ministry's first mergers and acquisitions trip; the executives are looking at companies in the automotive, textiles, food, energy, machinery, electronics and environmental protection sectors.

The government initiatives coincide with some immediate benefits of the slowdown for China. For instance, air freight and ocean shipping costs have plunged by as much as two-thirds since last summer as demand has fallen.

El Salvador's Leftist President-Elect Has Conciliatory Tone

By Blake Schmidt and Elisabeth Malkin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Almost as soon as Mauricio Funes won the presidency as the standard bearer for the party of El Salvador's former leftist guerrillas, he set about

trying to reassure his opponents.

"I have said it, and I repeat it,"
Funes, who will be El Salvador's
first leftist president, told cheering
supporters on Sunday night. "My
government will be moved by a spirit
of national unity, and this demands
that from now, from this very instant,
confrontation, revenge must be put
to one side."

The fact that Funes has had to disavow any plans to judge his party's enemies from the country's 12-year civil war shows how much the war's aftermath infuses politics in this country. Whether he can govern as a moderate, as he pledged during the campaign, remains to be seen.

Funes' party, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, known as the FMLN, is led by many of the same commanders who laid down

their weapons with the 1992 peace agreement and entered politics. Although the FMLN has managed to win legislative seats and town halls, the presidency has eluded it until now.

The right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, known as Arena, has won four successive presidential elections since 1989. Backed by the country's business elite, Arena pushed for a hard line against the guerrillas during the civil war, during which some 75,000 people died and an estimated 8,000 disappeared, mostly at the hands of the right-wing death squads and the military, which was supported by the United States.

With the FMLN's victory, El Salvador joins a growing number of Latin American countries that have elected leftist governments this decade. In part, the left's success is a response to disappointment with the failure of free-market policies promoted by Washington in the 1990s to generate significant economic growth and reduce the region's yawning inequality.

But the left in Latin America can

no longer be described in a single phrase. In Venezuela, President Hugo Chavez combines economic populism with authoritarianism and socialist rhetoric, while democratic governments in Brazil and Chile have adopted investor-friendly policies closer to those of European social democrates

Funes has promised "safe change" and says he will lead in the mold of Brazil's president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. He has sought to allay fears that the FMLN would nationalize important industries, as occurred in Venezuela and Bolivia, and he has promised to respect private property. Advisers have said they do not plan new taxes, just better enforcement of the existing tax law. Funes has said he will keep El Salvador in the Central American Free Trade Agreement and retain the dollar as the country's currency. He has also sent a strong message that he intends to continue El Salvador's close relationship with the United States. He met with the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy, Robert Blau, shortly after his victory speech Sunday night.

Netanyahu May Name Nationalist Leader as Foreign Minister

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TILES

IEDLICAL EX

Israel's prime minister-designate, Benjamin Netanyahu '75, forged ahead on Monday with negotiations toward a probable narrow, hawkish government after his conservative Likud party initialed its first coalition agreement with the nationalist Yisrael Beitenu party led by Avigdor Lieberman.

If finalized, the agreement, reached late Sunday, could make Lieberman, an often indelicate and outspoken politician whose threatening language aimed at Arabs arouses suspicion and some trepidation abroad, the next foreign minister.

The attention of many Israelis was focused on Cairo, however, where Israeli negotiators were trying Monday to reach a deal with Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza, for the release of a captured Israeli soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit.

The latest attempt appeared to have failed. In a statement issued Monday night, the office of the departing Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, said that Hamas had hardened its position during the talks and raised extreme demands, despite what were described as generous proposals from Israel.

A senior Hamas official, Moussa Abu Marzouk, suggested that there had been progress in the talks and that his group was awaiting a positive Israeli response to its demands.

The Israeli negotiators, dealing indirectly with Hamas through Egyptian mediators, were hoping to reach an agreement before Olmert ends his term. Olmert called a special Cabinet meeting for Tuesday to brief ministers on the talks.

Shalit's family has expressed concern about leaving his fate in the hands of the incoming government, fearing that it might start studying the case from scratch. A rightist government may also take a harder line in any further negotiation.

The Likud and Yisrael Beitenu parties have both expressed a preference for a broader unity coalition that would include the centrist Kadima party, which is led by the departing foreign minister, Tzipi Livni. Yisrael Beitenu has agreed to make changes in its coalition agreement should Kadima join, and in that case, the job of foreign minister would probably be reassigned.

U.S. and European Officials Discuss Detainees

By William Glaberson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Top officials of the Obama administration met Monday with a delegation from the European Union and promised to provide information on Guantanamo prisoners when U.S. officials begin asking European countries to accept specific detainees for resettlement.

Both sides said the sessions, the first of their kind since the administration took office, were a productive beginning toward defining a European role in helping the United States meet the president's goal of closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year of his taking office.

Jacques Barrot, a European Union vice president who led the delegation, said the Europeans had made it clear that to accept detainees, European countries would need complete information on the prisoners. "Otherwise we cannot accept that responsibility," he said.

A statement from the Justice Department said that Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. had pledged to provide information so that European countries could "make their own determinations" and acknowledged that closing Guantanamo was "a complex issue."

The Obama administration has said that about 60 detainees who cannot be returned to their home countries for humanitarian or other reasons could be resettled in Europe, but some European officials have expressed concerns about possible security risks and about whether U.S. intelligence agencies will share complete information about the prisoners.

State Street CEO's \$29M Reward May Cause Fireworks

By Beth Healy

THE BOSTON GLOB

State Street Corp.'s chief executive, Ronald E. Logue, will probably have to defend his nearly \$29 million in compensation before shareholders at the annual meeting in May, a Wall Street analyst said Monday, because of the company's ailing stock price and recent financial

Banking analyst Nancy Bush said State Street's near-term prospects have been hurt by billions of dollars in potential losses on debt investments that could result in write-offs, and its image as a cautious financial manager has been tarnished.

The bank's shares have plunged 71 percent since March 2008 — more than those of its two closest rivals in the business of managing money and handling accounting and other services for pensions, mutual funds, and other large investment clients.

'That has to be laid at Ron Logue's feet," Bush said.

Logue's total compensation in 2008 was valued at \$28.7 million, slightly more than in 2007, according to the company's proxy statement, filed late Friday.

At his request, Logue did not receive a bonus or incentive pay for the year. But with stock awards from prior years and a \$7.8 million increase in the value of his deferred pension benefit, Logue's total pay rose slightly.

In October, State Street became one of the country's first institutions to receive US taxpayer funds — \$2 billion, as part of the then-Bush administration's effort to bolster the financial sector.

In January, when State Street reported its earnings, its shares lost more than half of their value. The company reported \$9 billion in unrealized losses on its books, in investment securities and in its commercial paper program.

By comparison, Bank of New York Mellon Corp. shares have dropped 43 percent over the past year, while another competitor, Northern Trust Corp., has seen its shares slide 12 percent over the same period.

State Street shares closed Monday at \$23.12, up 2 percent for the day.

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<u>UPINION</u>



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Letters To The Editor

Government Should Intervene Less during **Economic Crisis**

In last week's opinion column ("Three Myths About the President's Budget"), David A. Weinberg says, referring to the increase in federal spending, that "the undisputed cause of this jump is the federal effort to save our economy." This is not true.

The TARP and the Stabilization Efforts program account for only half of the increase in the federal budget. The other half is explained by sharp spending increases in: (1) Social Security, (2) Medicare, (3) Medicaid and (4) Other Social Programs (+8%, +10%, +29% and +64% respectively!). In fact, if we take away the TARP we see that the federal spending still increases by 25%! This is unprecedented, by any measure.

But the real problem is that, unlike Mr. Weinberg's undisputable items (the TARP and Stabilization Effort), these increases are permanent and, what is more, they are funded with

tax increases on corporations and wealthier Americans. These tax increases may satisfy the envy of all those class warfare junkies, but they will certainly not increase investment. And lower investment is a recipe for lower economic growth. And that is undisputable.

Whether this and the bank and car industry nationalization are socialism I don't know, but they are certainly not free market initiatives. Mr. Weinberg seems to have no problem with that anyway, as he says, "free market isn't the answer to everything."

I have been hearing this everywhere, in the classroom, in the media, in politics and even among economists. But let's get something straight. This crisis was created by excessive government intervention. And by excessive intervention I mean the \$6 trillion that Fannie and Freddie pumped into the residential housing market. They were able to do this because government support gave them access to preferential capital requirement and cheap debt. If the government had not backed these GSEs they would have never been able to inject such monstrous amounts of cash into the residential housing market and we would have had no

housing bubble.

So now, after excessive government intervention created the housing mess, we are told that more spending, more regulation, and less free market will fix it. I don't buy that.

But let's not forget that the market is nothing more than the sum of all our decisions. In fact, the market is the most advanced form of democracy. Instead of voting every two years or so, you vote every day with your dollars. With this market voting system, a company that fails to deliver is immediately punished with a reduction in sales. You cannot say the same of state run services. Free market has also another beautiful feature; bankruptcy. A failing company can be disbanded, brought to court and its managers can be put in jail. The company's assets are then taken over by more efficient companies and the whole system is healthier. You cannot do this with government run services.

Free market is a prerequisite for democracy, and, just like democracy, free market is the worst system, with the exception of all the

Alejandro Rogers G

The M&M Effect

Bennie/Delano Combine Experience with Commitment to Change

Paul Baranay

MIT is at a crossroads. Amidst news of the budgetary crisis and GIR reform, students are troubled by repeated overtures against established traditions of hacking and dining. At the same time, the student body as a whole has become increasingly aware of the existence and the value of the Undergraduate Associa-

Administrators have finally begun openly and consistently pledging to maintain transparency, which has been the UA's watchword for years. In the midst of these debates and discussions, two names stand above the others: Michael A. Bennie '10 and Margaret K. Delano '10.

As current Undergraduate Association vice president, Mike has shouldered the herculean task of representing a student body that constantly oscillates between the extremes of "aggressively critical" and "completely apathetic" — and he has performed it admirably. Over the past year, Mike has demonstrated a refreshing willingness to tackle complex issues head-on-most notably, the current dining situation — rather than let the issues simply languish, unaddressed, in committees.

At the same time, Mike has never lost sight of other, more subtle concerns such as GIR reform and Saferide performance. He has also been instrumental in orchestrating

the internal affairs of the UA, taking pains to meet with each committee chair one-onone during the winter break to discuss their plans for the spring.

A cornerstone of than let the issues simply languish, Mike and Maggie's campaign has been their commitment to communicating with

the student body. Mike's actions as UA vice president affirm that this promise is more than just empty rhetoric. Over the past year, Mike has vastly improved the UA's external communications, as well as affirmed its commitment to transparency, by contributing to the totally overhauled UA website and by fostering strong relations with The Tech.

Mike has also been diligent in maintaining the UA's standard fare of student programming - Fall Festival, DormStorm, Student-Faculty dinners, and the upcoming Spring

Weekend — while also coordinating the addition of initiatives such as the Program in Leadership and Undergraduate Success (PLUS) and the Sustainability@MIT pamphlet, which have received praise from

the student body as well as the Office of the Dean for Student Life.

While Mike brings an unparalleled mastery of the intricacies of the UA's executive branch to the ticket, Maggie's greatest strength lies in her unyielding commitment to fully represent the student body. As vicechair of the UA Senate, Maggie has demonstrated her ability to work effectively with a large body of students who represent a broad spectrum of different but equally valid view-

This trait is especially important for a future vice president, who is primarily responsible for maintaining order within the UA and coordinating the activities of its Executive Board. Behind the scenes, Maggie has been

instrumental in assisting the current speaker of the Senate with his duties, such as determining the shortlist of administrators complex issues head-on ... rather whom the UA invites to Senate meetings.

Moreover, Maggie is no stranger when it comes to organizing large projects. As

vice president of East Campus, she was responsible for assigning incoming freshmen to their temporary and permanent rooms. While rooming assignment is a formidable task in and of itself, Maggie went above and beyond her duties by taking pains to increase the quality and transparency of her decisions.

Not only are they the most

qualified students for these

roles, but together they form an

unbeatable team.

If this isn't exactly the kind of attitude the UA needs, I don't know what is. I firmly believe that Mike and Maggie represent the very best pair of student leaders MIT has to offer. Not only are they individually the most

> qualified students for these roles, but together they form an unbeatable team. Mike's passion for change will balance Maggie's quiet dedication, and her experience with the Senate and his understanding of the

UA's committees will prove an unstoppable combination.

The pair has already garnered an impressive array of endorsements from student leaders across campus, including the majority of UA committee chairs, as well as a number of UA senators, dorm presidents, and DormCon officers. While many candidates have claimed a desire to communicate more personally with the student body, Mike and Maggie have actually "walked the talk" by visiting students on all sides of campus - not just east and west, but north and south, too.

Thanks to their years of commitment to the UA, Mike and Maggie already enjoy strong personal ties with a vast network of administrators. Most importantly, these connections are based on mutual respect for the decisions the UA has made. Whereas outsiders to the UA would need to spend weeks or even months building relationships with the relevant administrators, Mike and Maggie can simply step into their new roles and immediately begin advocating for students, with virtually no transition period necessary.

Mike and Maggie's impressive track record of genuine passion and concrete accomplishments speaks for itself. At this critical crossroads in the future of the UA, and even of MIT itself, only Mike and Maggie have the experience and the dedication to ensure that student voices are properly heard. Vote for experience — vote for Mike and Maggie.

Paul Baranay '11 is the Chair of the UA

Nominations Committee.

Opinion Policy

Mike has demonstrated a

refreshing willingness to tackle

unaddressed, in committees.

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Austin Chu, Editor in Chief Nick Bushak, Managing Editor Steve Howland, Executive Editor Michael McGraw-Herdeg, and Opinion Editor Andrew T. Lukmann, Joseph Maurer, and Ethan Solomon.

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The Tech

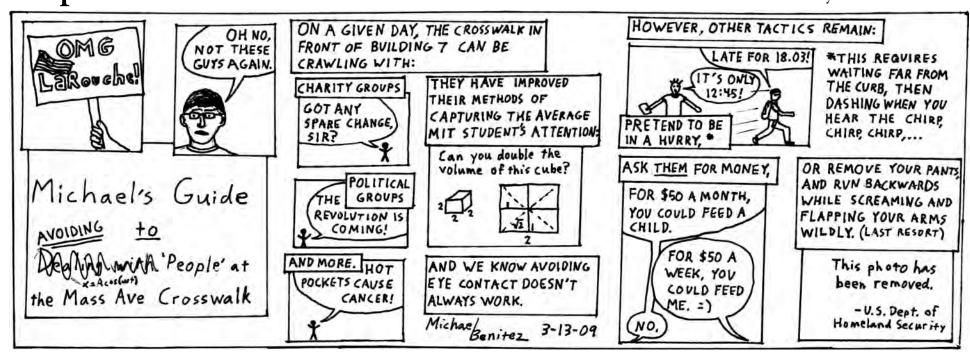
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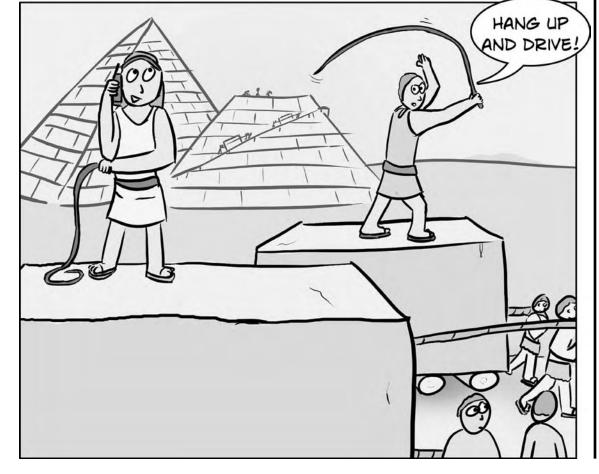
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ACROSS

- 1 Perpetual traveler
- 6 "Le __ du printemps"
- 11 605
- 14 Threatened
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- month
- 16 Satisfied sighs 17 Renowned jazz pianist
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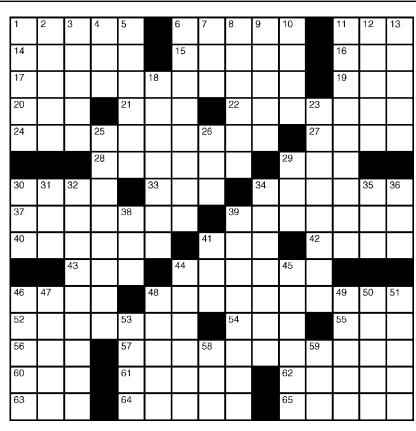
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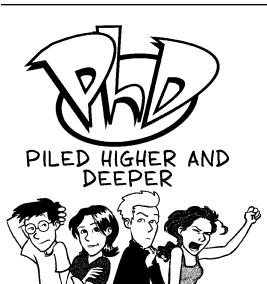
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 - Cleaver's hometown
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- 26 Wernher
- Braun
- 29 SSS word
- 30 Twice DLXXV
- 31 Fidel's amigo
- 32 Monkees singer
- 34 Went to bed
- 35 Gas pump abbr.
- 36 Ed.'s work pile
- 38 His: Fr.
- 39 Mary Roberts
- of mysteries 41 Cotillion gal
- 44 Sofa section
- 45 Relaxing 46 Jim or Gardner
- 47 Spring from
- 48 "The Cloister and the
- Hearth" writer 49 Concorde, e.g.
- 50 Contenders 51 Map in a map
- 53 Cabbage salad
- 58 Notes of scales 59 TV adjunct



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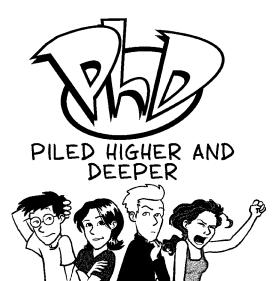




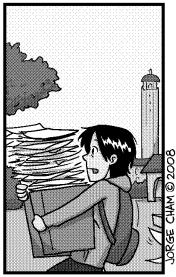




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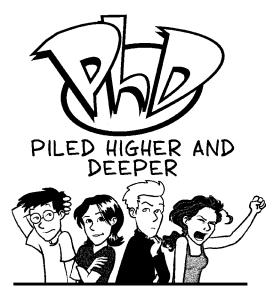


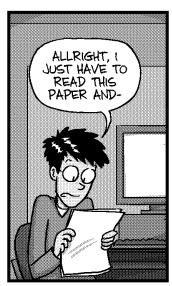


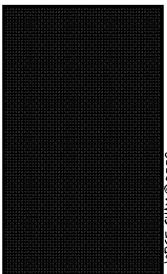




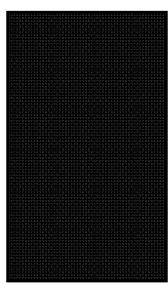
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THE TECH March 17, 2009 Page 8 **Developing Materials** Increasing Safety **Science For A Better Life**

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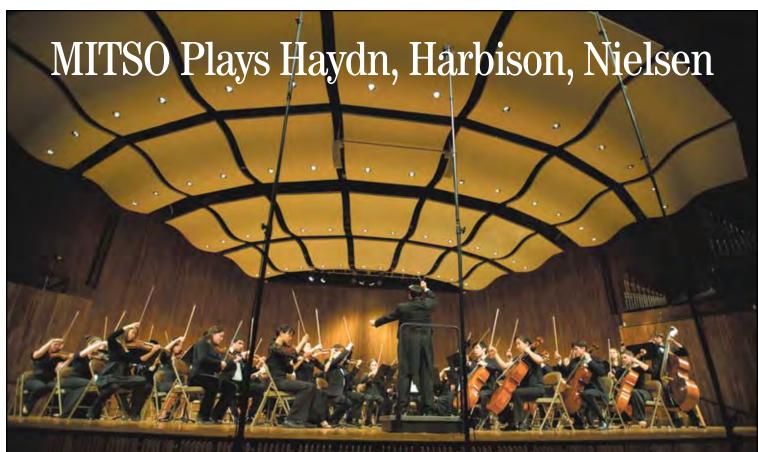
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March 17, 2009 THE TECH Page 9







The MIT Symphony Orchestra presented "Miracles" on Friday, March 3, 2009 in Kresge Auditorium. Director Adam K. Boyles led students through three pieces including Joseph Hadyn's Symphony No. 102, John Harbinson's Canonical American Songbook, and August Nielsen's Symphony No. 3 (Sinfonia Espansiva).

(clockwise from top left)

Latifah B. Hamzah '12, the piece's concertmaster, plays Nielsen's Symphony No. 3.

Kevin Dong Gyun Woo '12 plays the cello in Haydn's Symphony No. 102. Woo was the principal player for both Hadyn's and Harbison's piece.

The orchestra performs Nielsen's Symphony No. 3.

Photography by Meng Heng Touch

Call for Nominations!

2009 Student Art Awards

LAYA and JEROME B. WIESNER STUDENT ART AWARDS

The Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards are presented annually to up to three students (undergraduate or graduate), living groups, organizations or activities for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. Established in 1979, these awards honor President Emeritus Wiesner and Mrs. Wiesner for their commitment to the arts at MIT. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 honorarium to each recipient.

http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/wiesner.html

LOUIS SUDLER PRIZE IN THE ARTS

The Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts is presented annually to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence or the highest standards of proficiency in music, theater, painting, sculpture, design, architecture or film. The Prize was established in 1982 by Mr. Sudler, a performer in the arts and an arts patron from Chicago. An endowment fund provides a \$1,250 award to the honoree.

http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/sudler.html

Please send nominating letters by Friday March 20, 2009 to: Susan Cohen, Director, Council for the Arts at MIT- E15-205 cohen@media.mit.edu

http://web.mit.edu/awards/

THE TECH Page 10 March 17, 2009

officer Allegedly Drove Police Cruiser to Drug Deal

D'Amelio, from Page 1

ald reported.

D'Amelio called Cristallo, who came to the auto shop with cash. Undercover police apprehended D'Amelio and Cristallo and recovered the drugs along with \$12,000 in cash, according to a Suffolk County District Attorney's office press re-

OxyContin and Roxicodone are brands of pills containing oxycodone. Oxycodone is a painkiller that is listed as a Schedule II drug by the Drug Enforcement Administration, meaning it has a high potential for abuse

and "severe psychological or physical dependence," but has valid medical uses

Although oxycodone itself has been available for 30 years, abuse of the drug skyrocketed after 1996, when OxyContin's formulation was released. OxyContin is a time-release version of the drug, which was widely viewed as safer and harder to abuse than previous drug formulations. However, addicts quickly discovered that crushing the pills would cause rapid absorption of all the oxycodone in a single OxyContin tablet.

According to a 2001 study from

the Department of Justice, a bottle of 100 tablets (of 40 mg OxyContin) costs \$400 when purchased legally, but may be worth up to \$4,000 on the black market.

According to Massachusetts sentencing guidelines, trafficking in 28–100 grams of oxycodone carries a sentence of 7-20 years. (D'Amelio is estimated to have been carrying about 27 grams of oxycodone in OxyContin pills, and an unknown amount of oxycodone in Roxicodone pills. The precise amount of Roxicodone could affect his sentence.)

Trafficking in more than 100 grams carries a sentence of 10-20

MIT has placed D'Amelio on administrative leave without pay, MIT spokeswoman Patti Richards said yesterday. Captain Albert F. Pierce Jr. of the MIT Police Patrol Division declined to comment on the arrest. MIT Police Chief John DiFava did not return repeated telephone calls. MIT has released no official statement regarding D'Amelio's arrest.

You may have seen D'Amelio's name before

In 2004, former campus activist Aimee L. Smith PhD '02 filed a complaint against officer D'Amelio for unlawful arrest after D'Amelio arrested her twice in three months.

After the first arrest, at the 2004 Commencement, all charges against Smith were dismissed. President Charles M. Vest sent an unusual personal letter to the district attorney saying that MIT did not wish for Smith to be prosecuted. D'Amelio's actions at Commencement were appropriate, Vest said in the letter.

Three months later, on an August afternoon in 2004, Smith was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest outside the Student Center.

Smith was arrested after approaching police officers outside the Student Center and asking them whether they "know anything about [their] first amendment rights," The

Tech reported D'Amelio said. She then called the police "fucking pigs," The Tech reported.

According to an e-mail Smith sent to the MIT Social Justice Cooperative, during the discussion D'Amelio began "taunting her about the fact that he had arrested her before" and allegedly said "I should arrest you again"."

The altercation continued, and Smith was arrested. D'Amelio said Smith was "disturbing the peace of the people," *The Tech* reported.

A Cambridge judge dismissed the criminal charge filed by Smith. In January, Smith was found not guilty of the criminal charges, with the judge saying that "the mere uttering of profanity in a public place" was not a crime.

In fall 2004, MIT hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to provide an independent report on the facts of Smith's allegations against D'Amelio. That report was meant to collect facts and did not make any

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Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place. That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk? Whatever you have to. Friends don't let friends drive drunk.





Concerned about Rising Rent and Food Costs, GSC Presents to Deans

Grad Stipends, from Page 1

tal expenditure.

"Housing" makes up around half of the average graduate student's expenditure, while "Food and Beverages" makes up just under 30 percent of that expenditure for both single and married students, Chan said.

Housing rents and food costs for the Boston area rose in the last few months of 2008.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is predicting that, even if energy and fuel prices drop, food prices are likely to increase by four percent for the coming year.

In response to these expectations, the GSC gave a presentation on the cost of living calculations to the provost and deans at a meeting on Feb.

"We presented the data objectively and the response from the administration seemed to be positive," said Chan. In their presentation, the GSC presenters said that low levels of discretionary income put graduate students in a vulnerable position. This especially applies to international students, who make up 39 percent of the graduate student body and are not allowed to earn supplemental in-

Dean for Graduate Education

Steven R. Lerman '72 and Claude R. Canizares, vice president for research and associate provost, announced the decision to increase the stipends by 3.4 percent. The monthly stipends for the 2010-2011 academic year will range from \$2,171 for engineering teaching assistants to \$2,350 for Science and Engineering doctoral candidates.

Unlike graduate stipends, faculty and staff salaries will be frozen next year for faculty making more than \$125,000 a year and staff making more than \$75,000 a year. Graduate student stipends for the current year represent a 3.5 percent increase over last year.

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March 17, 2009 THE TECH Page 11

State Colleges Balance Budget Cuts with Missions

By Tamar Lewin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEMPE, ARIZ.

When Michael Crow became president of Arizona State University seven years ago, he promised to make it "The New American University," with 100,000 students by 2020.

It would break down the musty old boundaries between disciplines, encourage advanced research and entrepreneurship to drive the new economy, and draw in students from underserved sectors of the state.

He quickly made a name for himself, increasing enrollment by nearly a third to 67,000 students, luring big-name professors and starting interdisciplinary schools in areas like sustainability, projects with partners like the Mayo Clinic and Sichuan University in China, and dozens of new degree programs

But this year, Crow's plans have crashed into new budget realities, raising questions about how many public research universities the nation needs and whether universities like Arizona State, in their drive to become prominent research institutions, have lost focus on their public mission to provide solid undergraduate education for state residents.

These days, the headlines about Arizona State describe its enormous cuts.

The university has eliminated more than 500 jobs, including deans, department chairmen and hundreds of teaching assistants. Last month, Crow announced that the university would close 48 programs, cap enrollment and move up the freshman application deadline by five months. Every employee, from Crow down, will have 10 to 15 unpaid furlough days this spring.

"The New American University has died; welcome to the Neutered American University," the student newspaper editorialized last month the morning after the latest cuts were announced.

While Arizona State's economic problems have been particularly dramatic, layoffs and salary freezes are becoming common at public universities across the nation; the University of Florida recently eliminated 430 faculty and staff positions, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, laid off about 100 employees, and the University of Vermont froze salaries, left open 22 faculty positions and laid off 16 workers.

"What's happening, everywhere, is what's happening to Michael

Crow," said Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity and Accountability, an organization that studies spending by colleges and universities. "The trend line is states disinvesting in higher education."

The picture varies by state. Dozens of states, hit hard by the recession, made midyear cuts in their financing for higher education. And yet, budgets are largely intact at some leading research universities, like the University of Michigan.

Public universities everywhere are bracing for deep cuts in next year's budgets, but the federal stimulus package, providing billions of dollars for education and billions of dollars more for research, should ease the problem somewhat.

Despite the cuts, Crow said he was sticking to his priorities, protecting his new programs and his tenured and tenure-track faculty members. And he is hoping to expand research, with, for example, renewable-energy money from the stimulus package.

"I don't retreat very easily," he said. "The economy is shifting faster than the university can adjust, but we're trying to protect students from the hurricane. We're protecting the core of the core."

But not everyone is convinced that the Arizona State model makes sense.

"It may be that the idea of a 100,000-student research university was never very sustainable," said Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, which promotes access to higher education. "In this economy, the places that have been trying to claw their way up the ladder, the ones whose aspirations have exceeded their financial vision, are going to have the toughest time. They can't be all things to all people."

But Crow said he thinks he can simultaneously broaden access for Arizonans, improve academic quality and increase research.

His university, he said, is an inclusive institution where there are 7,000 students with no family income at all and a growing population of American Indian students. Tuition in most programs is less than \$6,000 a year for state residents, in part because of a state constitution provision that it be as "nearly free" as possible, which courts have interpreted to mean that its tuition must be in the bottom third

of public universities nationwide

Crow's record for improving quality is impressive, too. He has hired more than 600 tenured or tenure-track faculty members, and last year, for the first time, won a spot on the National Science Foundation's list of the top 20 research universities without a medical school, along with powerhouses like M.I.T. and the University of California, Berkeley.

Public universities
everywhere are bracing
for deep cuts, but the
federal stimulus package
should ease the problem
somewhat.

But not every university can be in the top 20. And in a time of shrinking state budgets, undergraduates at public universities will most likely pay the price in higher tuition, larger classes and less interaction with tenured professors. So it is a real question how many public research universities the nation can afford, and what share of resources should go to less expensive forms of education, like community colleges.

"Universities aspire to prestige," Wellman said, "and that is achieved by increasing selectivity, getting a research mission and having faculty do as little teaching as possible, not by teaching and learning, and taking students from Point A to Point B."

Mark G. Yudof, president of the University of California, laments that it has become an article of faith that every depressed area needs a research university.

"Research universities are very expensive," Yudof said, "and you can't have one in every county and every state. Your first obligation as a public university is to treat the undergraduates right. That's going to need a national attitude adjustment from leadership and boards of regents."

California's three-tier highereducation system, which serves 3.3

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James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

million students, almost 20 percent of the nation's college population, is among the hardest hit by the current recession. This year, with hundreds of millions of dollars removed from their budgets, both the California State University system and the University of California are being forced to shrink their enrollment.

"We're trying as hard as we can to preserve the instructional program," Yudof said. "But with the economy shrinking, and less money allocated to public universities, can I guarantee that the class that would have been 40 won't be 45? I can't."

Finding the right balance between improving academic quality and serving state residents is not

Case in point: merit scholarships. Arizona State University recruits National Merit Scholars nationwide with a four-year \$90,000 scholarship, a package so generous that Arizona State enrolls 600 National Merit Scholars, more than Yale or Stanford. Through the cuts, Crow has kept that program, even while proposing to cut a scholarship for Arizona residents with high scores

on state tests, a proposal the state regents turned down.

And even as his plans for expanding the university have slowed, Crow is trying to increase the enrollment of out-of-state students — who pay triple tuition — to as high as 40 percent next year.

When the latest cuts were announced, many Arizona State students said they believed Crow was doing his best to protect them but that, ultimately, the quality of their education could suffer.

"My African-American history professor said he thinks classes will be bigger next semester, and that's too bad," said Tierra Jenkins, a sophomore civil engineering student.

Many students at Arizona State said they blame the state legislature for short-sightedness in failing to support the university when it plays such a key role in the state's economy and residents' upward mobility.

"It really takes a lot of wind out of the sails of this university," said Kyle Whitman, a senior and an economics major who works part-time in Crow's office. "It's been on such a strong trajectory."





THE TECH March 17, 2009 Page 12

Eating Disorder Treatment

Treatment of Adults Suffering from Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa



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MIT No Longer Mails Rejection Letters; Decisions Given Online

Admissions, from Page 1

Schmill. He also said he thinks that awareness of MIT's "very generous financial aid" is increasing in a year where financial aid is "important to more and more families."

Only 1,597 students out of 15,661 applicants were admitted to the Class of 2013. Forty-eight percent are women and nearly a quarter are underrepresented minorities in an admitted class that spans all fifty states and sixty foreign countries.

"Decisions were tougher than ever," said Schmill, as the "additional applications were all very

Applicants were notified of MIT's decision online at decisions. mit.edu at 1:59 p.m on Saturday, March 14. Admissions decisions were to be available exclusively online, according to a blog post by Associate Director of Admissions

Matthew L. McGann '00. Though rejection letters will no longer be mailed, accepted students will still receive their admission packets in the mail.

The target size for the Class of 2013 is 1,075, said Schmill. This target would be achieved if the yield, the percentage of students who accept MIT's offer of admission, were at least 67.3 percent. If the yield remains at last year's 66 percent, MIT may accept students from its waitlist for the fourth year in a row. MIT's highest yield in recent years was 69 percent for the Class of 2011.

A previous version of this story ran on the web on Saturday, March 14.



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Undergraduate Admissions Numbers Through the Years

Class Year	Admit Rate	Number Admitted	No. of Applicants	(No. of Applicants Delta)	(No. of Applicants % Change)
2013	10.2%	1,597	15,661	2,265	16.9%
2012	11.6%	1,554	13,396	953	7.7%
2011	12.3%	1,533	12,443	1,070	9.4%
2010	13.0%	1,474	11,373	934	8.9%
2009	14.3%	1,495	10,439	-25	-0.2%
2008	15.9%	1,664	10,464	-83	-0.8%
2007	16.4%	1,734	10,547	_	_

SOURCE: STUART SCHMILL '86, DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

The 16.9% increase in applicants this year dominated numbers from previous years, contributing to a record low 10.2% admission rate for the incoming class.

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Wednesday, March 18th, 7:00pm

Room 491, Student Center, MIT

MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program

Khuda Kay Liye (In God's Name) Post 9/11 film about the difficult situation of Pakistanis in particular and Muslims in general.

Dinner will be available.

Questions: ora@mit.edu mit.edu/dsl/addir/ Website:

All are invited to attend.

Addir is a word in Ancient Sumerian which means "bridge". In the Addir Fellows Program we aspire to build bridges of dialogue and understanding. The Addir Fellows MIT Interfaith Dialogue Program is sponsored by Office of Dean for Student Life and MIT Hillel in cooperation with the Board of Chaplains.

This event is co-sponsored by MISTI - http://mit.edu/misti - and will include a brief overview of how MISTI provides MIT students with opportunities to connect to cultures in other countries.

Commitment: The New Factor At Play in College Admissions

By Peter Schworm

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Like wary suitors, colleges are searching for signs of commitment from applicants before they extend admissions offers, hoping to find out whether their affection is mutual.

In the increasingly tense courtship of college admissions, more selective schools are smiling upon high school students who show sincere interest in attending, closely tracking such things as whether they visited campus, responded to recruiting messages, or even joined an online chat with an admissions officer.

"You're going to want those students who also want you," said Gil Villanueva, dean of admissions at Brandeis University. "Everything else being equal, between a student you know and a student you don't, you will go with the known commodity."

Villanueva, like many admissions officers, said keen enthusiasm for a school is no guarantee but can sometimes tip the balance in students' favor.

The growing importance of "demonstrated interest" is the product of a number of overlapping factors. High school students are applying to a greater number of colleges to better their odds of acceptance, which has made it harder for colleges to estimate how many actually plan to come. This year, the financial downturn and the credit crunch have further complicated the process, with families expected to base their decisions more on cost.

Amid such unpredictability, students who seem excited at the prospect of arriving on campus in the fall are in high demand, admissions officers say. In an ironic twist, the volatile nature of admissions has given students a measure of control over the process.

In its annual survey of admissions trends, the National Association for College Admission Counseling found that 22 percent of colleges gave interest "considerable importance" in admissions, up from 7 percent in 2003. Another 30 percent of schools rated it as moderately important.

In terms of influence, it outranked such admissions standbys as counselor and teacher recommendations, interviews, and extracurriculars, and was narrowly behind class rank and personal essays.

"We track every single contact we have with students," said Kelly Walter, executive director of the admissions office at Boston University.

Parents and applicants take note: Walter and other college officials

Wednesday

March 18, 4 PM

discuss his experiences applying high-resolution satellite imagery, other remote sensing data, and mapping technologies to human rights work in Darfur, Burma, Ethiopia, and elsewhere. He will focus on the challenges of meeting user-needs among non-governmental human rights organizations, the value of the technologies for those organizations, and research and development priorities.

Human Rights &

_ars Bromley will

said they do not hold it against students who cannot afford to visit campus, particularly in the slumping economy. There are many other ways students can let colleges know they are among their top choices, including attending a college fair or reception in their hometown. Even better, they said, is introducing themselves to an admissions officer and striking up a conversation.

"I remember," Walter said, speaking of such chats.

Admitting more students who truly want to be there, college officials say, creates an energetic and close-knit culture on campus. And by producing loyal alumni with soft spots for their colleges, it also pays long-range dividends in guldraising.

Giving preference to students whose interest seems genuine also helps colleges boost their image. By targeting students who are more likely to attend, they can admit a smaller percentage and still fill out their freshman class, making them appear more selective and more desirable.

Families have caught on to the new approach. John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admissions at Boston College, said parents who visit the campus often scan the premises for the sign-up sheet that will let them make their presence known.

We tell them we're not tracking that," he said. "But they want to make sure they let us know they were there."

Mahoney said BC does not consider student interest and said he suspects some students feign interest to boost their odds.

"Students are being conditioned to express interest, but if they are doing so at 16 Northeastern schools, how good of a barometer is it?"

But some say that students who cultivate relationships with schools through the delicate art of admissions flirting - gain a much better chance of winning their hearts.

"It's almost like a dating game," said Phil Meisner, founder of CAPS, the College Application Processing Service, in Washington. "No one wants to commit, but everyone's looking for a signal. Why shouldn't students be able to let colleges know they want to go?"

College officials say students rarely go overboard in their selfmarketing campaigns, although they fear more will as the practice becomes more prevalent. Others worry that judging students by expressions of interest could unfairly help wealthier students whose parents and counselors know the system's

subtleties and how to exploit them.

"We don't want to penalize students who don't know that 14,000 contacts with an admissions officer could tip the balance," said Gail Berson, dean of admission at Wheaton College in Norton.

This spring, a student whom Berson met at a New York City high school has become a "steady pen pal," even sending her copies of his latest short stories. His persistence convinced Berson he would attend, and his writing ability convinced her he should be admitted, despite a soso academic record.

Alex Michel, a senior from Weston, said she knew that Wheaton was her top choice as soon as she visited the campus, and she immediately made her intentions known. She visited campus several times, including an overnight stay with students, and e-mailed admissions officers with questions. In December, she was accepted, and now she chats on Facebook with her eventual classmates.

"I know colleges are looking for students who are enthusiastic," she said. "When I visited campus, I always made sure the admissions office knew I was there."

Solution to Crossword

	from page 6													
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SCREENVISION

Coop Student Board of Directors Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 academic year.

M.I.T. Undergraduate Students: Hae Rhee (Hattie) Chung, 2011

M.I.T. Graduate Students:

Lorenna Lee- Houghton, PhD, 2011 Tanguy Chau, PhD/MBA, 2011 Paul Romano PhD, 2011

Harvard Undergraduate Students:

Tami Kim, 2011 George Thampy, 2010 Edmund Soriano, 2011 Melissa Oppenheim, 2012

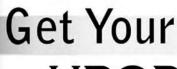
Harvard Graduate Students: Aaron Chadbourne, HBS/HLS, 2011 Luke Fuszard, KSG, 2010 Johanna Wightman, HBS, 2010





Any student Coop member may petition to be a candidate on the election ballot. A Petition application is available online at www.thecoop.com. The Petition period is March 16, 2009 to March 30, 2009. For complete Petition rules consult the information posted in the election section on the Coop website at www.thecoop.com.

MURJournal





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Published

Submission deadline

MARCH 20

Email submissions to: murj@mit.edu

Questions? murj-officers@mit.edu

SCOREBOARD

Baseball	
Sunday, March 15, 2009	
MIT (1-0)	13
Vassar College (0-1)	0
MIT (2-0)	10
Vassar College (2-0)	1

Men's Gymnastics							
Friday, March 13, 2009							
The College of William and Mary	335.7						
MIT	314.4						

Men's Lacrosse	
Saturday, March 14, 2009	
Salve Regina University (3-1)	7
MIT (0-3)	6

Womens's Lacrosse							
Saturday, March 14, 2009							
Bridgewater State College (0-1)	10						
MIT (1-2)	13						

Women's Tennis	
Saturday, March 14, 2009	
Colby College (1-1)	0
MIT (10-3)	9

Spring Season Off to Great Start as Team Remains Undefeated

Tennis, from Page 16

score of 6-1, 6-2. Vishnevetsky soon followed her partner off the court, winning with multiple approach shots to take the match 6-1, 6-1. Next off was Yi Wang '09, who stayed consistent thoughout her match to wear down her opponent, winning 6-2 6-0

In the next match, McCree hit a down the line passing shot to make it 5-4 in the first set, changing the momentum. She continued and did not let her opponent win another game, making the score 6-4, 6-0.

Sonya Makhni '11 played next in exhibition. Sonya forced errors and hit a winning backhand down the

line shot, generally putting pressure on her opponent. Despite the pressure Makhni put on her opponent she lost a tough match 2-6, 3-6.

The next two matches went to tie breakers for the third set. Diskin was the first off of the two. She started off her match well, taking the first game with a winning crosscourt forehand. She kept up the pressure through out the match, winning it with 6-3, 5-7, (10-4). This left Hall on court. Hall kept the ball deep in the court and hit a backhand volley winner during the second set. The match was tight but Hall pulled it out in the tie breaker, winning 6-4, 3-6, (10-4). This gave MIT a 9-0 win over Colby, making their spring season count 2-0.

Memphis Unchallenged In C-USA as Big East Dominates Selections

March Madness, from Page 16

more difficult schedule and only lost 4 games. Memphis is on a 25-game winning streak. I'm only slightly disappointed that Memphis did not get a top seed. UConn's a good team, but if both teams make it to the Elite Eight, the head-to-head matchup will end the debate.

The other number one seeds are Louisville in the Midwest, North Carolina in South, and Pittsburgh in

Calution to Cudaku

Solution to Sudoku										
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9	6	1	5	7	3	4	2	8		
3	7	4	1	2	8	9	6	5		
5	8	2	6	4	9	1	3	7		
8	2	9	3	1	4	7	5	6		
7	1	3	2	6	5	8	9	4		
4	5	6	9	8	7	3	1	2		
1	9	7	4	5	6	2	8	3		
2	4	5	8	3	1	6	7	9		
6	3	8	7	9	2	5	4	1		

the East. Three of these top seeds are from the Big East. Louisville took home the Big East regular season and conference tournament titles. Before switching in 2005, Louisville was a member of Conference USA. Memphis holds that conference's regular season and tournament title.

Since the departure of Louisville, DePaul, Marquette, and Cincinnati, the Memphis Tigers have dominated the league. The last time Memphis lost to a C-USA team was more than three years ago — that's 62 in-conference games ago. As sports analysts love to point out, C-USA is simply not as competitive a league as, say, the Big East. I agree. What I don't agree with is the idea that Memphis could not fare well in a more competitive league. The Tigers' performance out of conference and in the Big Dance over the past few years has proven otherwise — they made it all the way to national championship game in 2008. Let's see how far Memphis makes it this year.

Last in: Minnesota, Arizona Snubs: St. Mary's, Penn State, Creighton, San Diego State



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Page 16 THE TECH March 17, 2009

SPORTS

Strong Doubles Play Sets Tone as Women's Tennis Sweeps Colby

By Jennifer Rees

MIT Women's Tennis defeated Colby this past Saturday, winning 9-0. The warm day allowed the play-

ers to compete outside, which also allowed the many fans to see the action better. Among the fans was Kat Pick, a former assistant coach who came out to support the

the team headed out to play doubles.

The first match went quickly, with the team of Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12 easily defeating their opponents 8-0.

team. With the support of the fans,

Next off was the number three team of Alexandria C. Hall '12 and Jennifer A. Rees '11, who defeated their opponents 8-3. That left the number two team of Anisa K. McCree '10 and Melissa A. Diskin '11 in the spotlight. The match was close and intense with the scores going back and forth. In the end, Diskin and McCree won 8-3 against their opponents. This gave MIT a 3-0 lead going into the singles matches.

Hansen started off the singles matches well with a winning backhand volley to take the first game. She finished her singles match with a

Tennis, Page 14



Kelly Duncan '11 looks upfield for an open teammate during Saturday's women's lacrosse matchup on Roberts Field. The Engineers defeated Bridgewater State 13-10.

Brackets Unveiled: UConn Chosen Over Memphis as West's Top Seed

By Nydia Ruleman

SPORTS STAFF

In the *Tech* office, the sportswriters anxiously await the results of Selection Sunday. One of the editors

is from Connecticut (Editor's Note:

was). I am from Memphis. We've been talking smack all season. Finally, the brackets have been revealed, and we learned the teams' seeding for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Connecticut (27-4) is the number one seed is the West region and Memphis (31-3) is the number two seed — also in the West region.

See page 15 for a complete copy of the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament bracket. Both teams made a strong case for a number one seed. Last Thursday, Connecticut lost to Syracuse in an epic six-overtime, 3-hour and 46-minute Big East Tournament quarterfinals game. (That's as long as *Gone with the Wind*, to put it in perspective.) The Huskies have played a

March Madness, Page 14

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Women's Softball vs. Simmons College Men's Lacrosse vs. Wentworth College 4 p.m., Briggs Field 4 p.m., Jack Barry Field

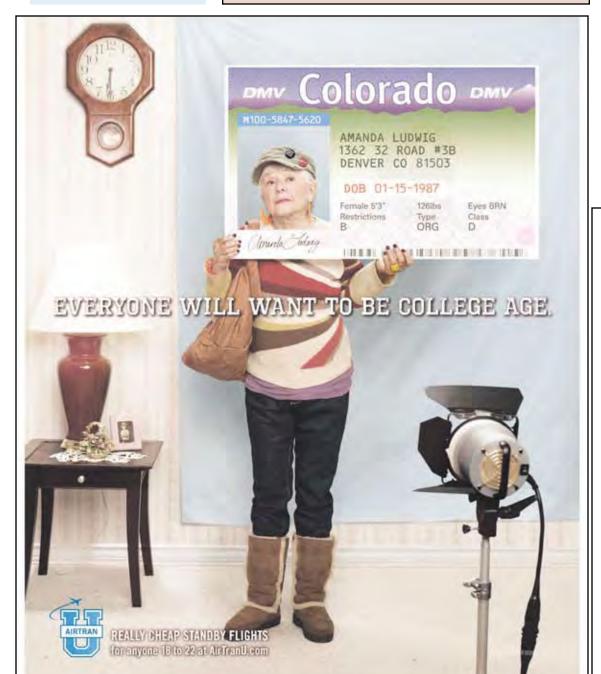
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

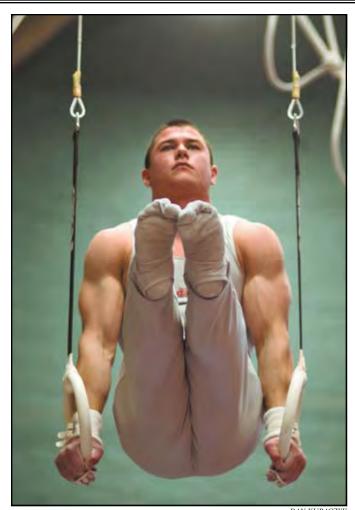
Men's Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology

3:30 p.m., Briggs Field

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Men's Lacrosse vs. Curry College Men's Volleyball vs. Emmanuel College 4 p.m., Jack Barry Field 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage





DAN KUBACZY

Thomas S. Caldwell '09 does an L-seat on the rings during MIT's match versus the College of William and Mary on March 13. The engineers lost 335.7-314.4 in their final home meet.

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